

Legislative issues abound early in second term

Agriculture

AgJOBS

Americans need and expect a stable, predictable, legal work force in American agriculture. Willing American workers deserve a system that puts them first in line for available jobs with fair, market wages. All workers deserve decent treatment and protection of basic rights under the law. Consumers deserve a safe, stable, domestic food supply. American citizens and taxpayers deserve secure borders, a safe homeland, and a government that works. Yet we are being threatened on all these fronts, because of a growing shortage of legal workers in agriculture. To address these challenges, a bipartisan group of Members of Congress, including Congressman Nunes, have introduced HR 884 the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security (AgJOBS) Act of 2005. This bipartisan effort builds upon years of discussion and suggestions among growers, farm worker advocates, Latino and immigration issue advocates, Members of both parties in both Houses of Congress, and others.

Dairy

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 521, the Milk Import Tariff Equity Act. The bill seeks to prevent the unrestricted importation of dairy proteins. Milk Protein Concentrates are relatively new to the market and were not included in the General Agreement of Trade and Tariffs, as the ultra-filtration technology did not

exist. H.R. 521 is supported by the National Milk Producers Federation, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers Organization, the National Grange and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

Defense- Veterans

Iwo Jima

February 19, 2005, marked the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings by



members of the United States Marine Corps on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II. In recognition of this important date in our nation's history, Congressman Nunes co-sponsored House Resolution 119. The resolution commends the brave soldiers who participated in this important battle and enshrines our nation's commitment to the memory of those who gave their lives during the battle.

Housing

Real Estate Brokerage and Management

Congressman Nunes became a cosponsor of H.R. 111, the Community Choice in Real Estate Act authored by Rep. Calvert (R-CA). This bill would ensure that real estate brokerage and management activities are clearly and definitively de-

fined as commercial activities and not financial matters. Basically, banks and other similar financial institutions would not be able to conduct operations that have historically been operated by real estate companies.

Judicial

Firearms Manufacturers Protection

Rep. Nunes became an original cosponsor of H.R. 800, the Firearms Manufacturers Protection Bill authored by Rep. Stearns (R-FL). This bill would protect gun and ammunition manufacturers from civil lawsuits based on the criminal or unlawful third-party misuse of firearms. Without question, this common sense proposal will cut down on the amount of unnecessary litigation in our judicial system, and make individuals who choose to break the law ultimately liable for their actions, not companies that make or sell firearms.

Transportation

Agriculture Transportation

Congressman Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 572, which will provide a comprehensive definition of the term "agricultural commodity" in the National Highway Safety Designation Act. Currently, this term is not clearly defined and has been subject to varying interpretations. This bill will also provide exemptions from the federal hours of service regulations for truck drivers who are engaged in the transportation of agricultural

commodities and supplies.

State Route 130

Rep. Richard Pombo recently introduced H.R. 723, which directs the Secretary of Transportation to study the feasibility of constructing a new highway connecting State Route 130 in Santa Clara with Interstate Route 5 in San Joaquin County. Recognizing the need for additional infrastructure to support increasing traffic between the Central Valley and the Bay Area, Mr. Nunes co-sponsored the bill.

Water

Clean Water Act (404 Permits)

In a letter to Colonel Light, the Sacramento District Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, Rep. Nunes requested his personal attention to a jurisdictional determination under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for portions of the Tule and Kaweah rivers. This issue has been pending in Sacramento for some time now, and involves matters of policy significance that are important to the San Joaquin Valley. Specifically, Rep. Nunes is concerned about any application of the CWA that allows the Corps to exercise jurisdiction under a "tributary" theory on the basis of a pumping connection between two otherwise isolated water bodies. Rep. Nunes is not aware of any Corps regulation or court case that has applied such a theory of "tributary" for the purpose of jurisdictional determinations.